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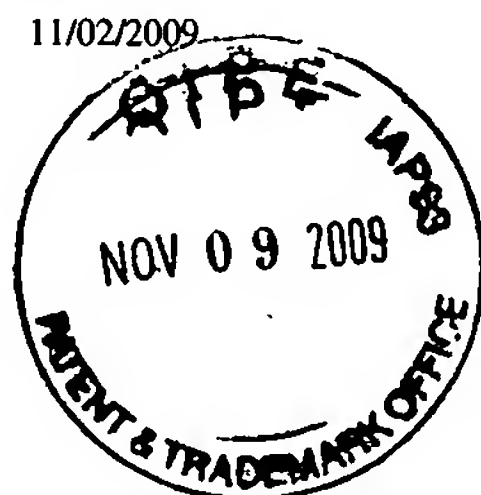


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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/605,700	10/21/2003	Guillermo Marciano		2699

7590
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EXAMINER

CHOU, ALAN S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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11/02/2009

PAPER

Dear Patent Applicant,

You are receiving this communication because your application has met the filing date and classification requirements to participate in the USPTO's Enhanced First Action Interview Pilot Program. This communication does **NOT** constitute notice to which applicant must respond. This communication is only informing applicant that the above identified application may be eligible for the Enhanced First Action Interview Pilot Program.

The United States Patent and Trademark Office is reinitiating and expanding the First Action Interview Pilot Program to further explore the benefits of having an interview before first action. This enhanced second generation of the pilot will continue to promote better communication between applicants and examiners by using a refined procedure. Applicants, with applications filed in certain art areas, who comply with the requirements in this enhanced program and request who request to participate will receive the results of a prior art search conducted by the examiner via a condensed Pre-Interview Communication. Participants will then be given an opportunity to conduct an interview with the examiner to discuss the cited prior art references before the examiner issues an Office action on the merits that sets forth the rejections. Currently, granting an interview before first action on the merits of a new application is wholly within the discretion of the examiner, who may require a showing to justify the granting of the interview. See MPEP § 713.02. The enhanced pilot program provides a procedure which, if followed, makes the granting of an interview non-discretionary.

Some of potential advantages of participating in this new pilot include: having a substantive interview prior to issuance of a first Office action on the merits, facilitating resolution of any outstanding issues leading to early disposition of the application including a possible early indication of allowable subject matter, and reducing total pendency for the application through the early interview process and reduced time periods for response.

For further details on additional requirements to participate, go to the following link:
http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/pac/dapp/opla/preognotice/faipp_v2.htm.

Note that if this application has already received a first Office action on the merits, it is no longer eligible to participate in this program.